2009 WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR THE SHARPSBURG WATER SYSTEM PWSID # 0210017

Is my water safe?

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. Washington County Department of Water Quality vigilantly safeguards its water supplies and once again we are proud to report that our system has never violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

The water supply for the Sharpsburg Water System comes from the Potomac River, a surface water source. This water is processed through the Sharpsburg Water Treatment Plant. The Water Treatment Plant provides filtration, chlorination, pH adjustment, Ultra Violet disinfection and fluoridation of the water prior to entering the distribution system.

Source water assessment and its availability

The Maryland Department of the Environment has developed and the EPA has approved its plan for the development of Source Water Assessments. MDE completed the final Assessment in July 2002. For more information on this report contact Mr. Kim L. Bowers at (240) 313-2600.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Results of voluntary monitoring

The Washington County Department of Water Quality conducts routine testing of your water system that is not included in the Water Quality Data Table. The MDE has also completed testing that is not included in the Water Quality Data Table. A list of these parameters and their results are located in the Table of Results of Customer Interest below.

How can I get involved?

The Washington County Department of Water Quality has an Advisory Board that meets on a monthly basis. For more information on attending one of these meetings, please contact our main office at (240) 313-2600.

TABLE OF RESULTS OF CUSTOMER INTEREST

PARAMETER	LEVEL/RANGE DETECTED	UNIT OF MEASUREMENT
pH	7.1 to 8.6	Standard Unit
Chlorine	1.1 to 3.2	ppm
Hardness	68 to 239	ppm
Alkalinity	32 to 140	ppm

Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range Low	Range High	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.)								
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	NA	60	62.03	24.48	106.6	2009	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	NA	80	43.89	0	80.52	2009	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.95	0.00	1.34	2009	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	1.1	NA		2009	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (optional) (ppm)		**MPL**	**15.0**	**NA**		**2008**	**No**	**Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching**
Microbiological Contaminants								
Turbidity (NTU) 95% of the samples were below the TT value of 0.3 A value less than 95% constitutes a TT violation.						2009	No	Soil runoff
The highest single measurement was 0.3. Any measurement in excess of 1 is a violation unless otherwise approved by the state.								
Radioactive Contaminants								
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	2	NA		2002	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium (combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	0	5	1	NA		2002	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Inorganic Contaminants							
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.051	2008	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	0.015	.006	2008	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Additional Monitoring

As part of an on-going evaluation program the EPA has required us to monitor some additional contaminants/chemicals. Information collected through the monitoring of these contaminants/chemicals will help to ensure that future decisions on drinking water standards are based on sound science.

Name	Reported Level
Bromodichloromethane (ppb)	17.8
Chloroform (ppb)	35.6

Unit Descriptions	
Term	**Definition**
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
pCi/L	pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
NTU	NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	**Definition**
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

A Violation occurred in 2009 due to a delay in the delivery of the Consumer Confidence Report to Maryland Department of the Environment. A copy was provided, but did not reach MDE by the required deadline.

For more information on the Washington County Department of Water Quality, please visit our website at www.washco-md.net/water_sewer.

For more information on the Sharpsburg Water System telephone Mr. Kim L. Bowers at 240-313-2600